

DUNLOP DIARY

December
2025



Scottish Charity No.SC000447

Dear friends & neighbours,

I write this on a chilly but beautiful November day - the sun shines in a blue sky, making the white frost on gardens and homes sparkle like the glitter on a Christmas card! A beautiful and very fitting reminder that festive busyness is almost upon us as we prepare to welcome the light of the Christ child into the darkness of our winter lives.

You are all invited to welcome that light at our Service and Procession of Light on Monday, 1st December, when the Primary School Choir will sing and count-down to the Nativity Christmas Lights Switch-On, and festive treats will be shared.

Cathures Chamber Choir return to the Church on Saturday, 13th December, this time accompanied by a harpist for a concert of Winter Songs and Christmas Carols. That promises to be a busy day, and in the Mure Hall, Uplawmoor, our Messy Church is hosting a Christmas Cinema for children and families.

The tradition of a Watch Night Service in Dunlop Kirk continues, and now with what will hopefully become a new tradition of hot chocolate, mulled wine, and goodies like mince pies beforehand. So come along for festive treats and carols as we sing our way into Christmas

Day. Join us again later that day for a short, very informal service for all ages in the Kirk at 10am.

November sunshine and frosty glitter carries the promise of more light to come - that divine light which is never overcome!

Peace, joy, and hope to you all this Advent and Christmas,

Rev Alison McBrier, Minister
T: 01560 673686
E: amcbrier@churchofscotland.co.uk

Time again for the Service and Procession of Light!

Dunlop Kirk, Monday, 1st December, 6pm

All are welcome at our Service and Procession of Light!

Around 6.30pm we'll walk up Main Street with our lights to the Church Hall for the Christmas Nativity Lights Switch-On (6:45pm), accompanied by the Dunlop Primary School Choir and followed by festive goodies and refreshments in the Church Hall. A chance to admire the village lights which will cheer us through the dark winter nights.

Margo McMurdo, Session Clerk

Dunlop Kirk Services

Sunday Morning Worship,
11.30am in the church

Caldwell Church Services

Sunday Morning Worship,
10am in the church

Our Sunday worship is also available through the Church website (<https://dunlopkirk.org.uk>), Dunlop Church's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@dunlopchurchofscotland4062/streams>), and Caldwell Church's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@caldwellparishchurchinupla5405/streams>)

We also run a **Zoom Session on Sunday mornings** which lets us have a chat with each other and watch the service together.

Caldwell and Dunlop Christmas Special Services

- Monday 1st December, 6pm:
Service of Lights in Dunlop Kirk & after Dunlop Church Hall.
- Saturday 13th December, 2-4pm:
Christmas Messy Church Cinema - Mure Hall, Uplawmoor
- Christmas Eve, 6.30pm:
Family Christingle Service in Caldwell Church
- Christmas Eve, 11.15pm:
Watchnight Service in Dunlop Kirk (Carols from 11.15pm; service at 11.30pm)
- Christmas Day, 10am:
Short Family Service in Dunlop Kirk (Please note earlier service time)

Church Flowers & Readers

Welcome Team

December

Annette Brown

Elizabeth Garrity

Julie Smith

Brian McGaw

Anne Sinclair

Welcome Team

January

Alan Young

Kirsteen Hare

Jim Mundell

Alistair Martin

Christine Reid

Readers

December

7th Lynne Moss

14th Elizabeth Garrity

21st Brian McGaw

28th Julie Smith

January

4th Roy Wyllie

11th Anne Sinclair

18th Lynne Moss

25th Beverly Kirk

Flowers

December

7th Anne Young

14th Beverly Kirk

21st Dorothy Brown

28th Kirsteen Hare

January

4th Fiona Walker

11th Anne Young (Lugton)

18th Nancy Graham

25th Sadie Reid



Dunlop and Caldwell, Exploring the Bible

December: Wednesdays 10.30 am via Zoom

January: Tuesdays 10.30 am via Zoom

Caldwell Column

Caldwell Church, Neilston Road, Uplawmoor, G78 4AF
Churches in Union - Caldwell and Dunlop Parish Church

Sunday Service

Church service time is as usual from 10am. All are welcome for Tea, Coffee, and Fellowship in the church hall after the service. Donations for Barrhead Food Bank welcome.

Thanks to everyone who helped to raise £1,074 for Erskine Hospital at the Remembrance Erskine Brunch.

Messy Church Cinema Event

Saturday 13th December 2-4pm in the Mure Hall

Christingle Service

Wednesday 24th December at 6.30pm in Caldwell Church

Christmas Card Delivery Service

Posting dates from 1-15 December. Deliveries from 17th December. All donations will go to Charity YOUNGMINDS.

Ongoing Activities

Soup and Sandwich Lunches - Everyone welcome to enjoy a warming bowl of soup and tasty sandwiches, chat and catch-up.

Seniors Group meets every Tuesday morning in the Church Hall from 10.30-12noon for fellowship, lively debate, catch-up, coffee and biscuits.

Bible Exploration Group meet online between 10:30 and 11.30am on for analysis and discussion of selected bible passages and themes. See article below (left) for more info

Mobile Library of Christian Faith and Practice is free to use, details from paulandcathie@gmail.com

The **Motor Bike Club AGM** will take place Monday evening, 8th December, 7pm until 9pm.

Contact John: 0141 881 6553

The **Community Choir** meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm. New members are welcome!

Contact Lynne: 07710 633416

Dunlop Tuesday Coffee, Tea and a Chat

On Tuesdays, 10-11:30am, all are welcome to join us for our weekly morning coffee, tea, biscuits and chat in the Church Hall.

Christmas break after 16th Dec. Back 6th Jan.



Christmas Fayre Dunlop Village Hall

Saturday 13th December, 1-3pm

Christmas stalls, Arts and crafts.
Live Music and stage Dance display.
Children's photoshoot with Santa.
Garnock Valley community concert band will be playing live.
Café serving delicious hot food

Contact Mhairi Floyd for tables.

Tel.07562454927

Email.mhairifloyd@gmail.com



Merito: Christmas Period Times & Events

Merito, the Dunlop Community Hub run pub and restaurant, will be offering us all a great selection of entertainment over the festive period. From Christmas wreath making class (13 Dec), to darts (1 & 15 Dec), jam sessions (28 Dec), live music (6 & 27 Dec), Family Bingo (14 Dec) and Family Karaoke on NYD (even Dads are encouraged, within reason). Merito's staff and entertainers will provide us all with a great opportunity to

meet up and celebrate over the festive period.

Further details of festive opening times and events are available on posters in the Post Office and in Norman's Newsagents windows, the chalk-boards outside of Merito, and in the following web-links:

www.facebook.com/meritodunloppub
& www.dunlopch.co.uk

Christmas Appeal East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action

This year there will again be a collection of gifts for children affected by homelessness at Christmas. Please mark the gifts for a boy or a girl (if relevant) and the age range.

There will also be a collection of tinned goods for the residents in temporary accommodation throughout East Ayrshire so that they can have a festive meal on Christmas day.

Donations of cash to help with the purchase of these goods will also be welcome if it is more suitable for you.

Could the gifts please be brought to church by Sunday, 7th December so that they can be delivered to Kilmarnock for distribution before Christmas.

If you are unable to bring them to church, or would prefer to donate money, please contact:
Margo McMurdo 01560 484824 or Lesley Beaton 01560 484989.

We appreciate the support this appeal always receives from the congregation and the wider community.

Margo McMurdo,
Session Clerk



Dunlop Friends of Ayrshire Hospice

Thank you to all the community who raised £4099 on Friday evening and, including the Hospice cards, diaries, calendars and notebooks achieved the grand total of £7025!

Dunlop Hall Gallery

As usual, the Christmas Exhibition, which runs till 19th December, will feature works by several local artists and includes a wide variety of styles, sizes and prices – hopefully something for everyone! Please do drop in to see our fabulous exhibition and support the artists and the hall, and take advantage of a great opportunity to buy something for yourself or to find truly original presents.

The Dunlop Gallery Calendars, with each month featuring a local scene painted by a local artist, will also be available from the Post Office and at the Craft Fair on the 13th December. A real bargain at £8 each.

Musical Memories

Wednesday 10th December is our Christmas afternoon with the school children coming along to sing their carols to us. Eddie will be back for our musical items and there will be a special Festive Tea to enjoy at the interval.

A lovely afternoon to look forward to in the Church Hall from 2-4pm.

Dunlop Community Cinema

The Dunlop Community Cinema. Christmas film is moving to a Saturday night this year...Saturday 13th December.

This year's choice is a classic from 1960 starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine - 'The Apartment', a dark comedy about human behaviour in the corporate America of the 60's. Full of cracking one-liners and sharp dialogue, it will tear at your heartstrings then

make them zing with hope. It's a film that always bears repeating and if you've never seen it, you're in for a real treat. Please join us at 7.30pm on Saturday 13th December for a heartwarming classic on what is sure to be a cold winter's night.

Please also keep your eyes open for a possible children's screening during the Christmas holidays. Details TBC.

Dunlop Bowling Club

The club continues to keep our community busy with family bingo open to all on 13th and 20th December and our family Hogmanay party where you can purchase tickets via our Facebook or send us a message.

Please consider us for your private function needs. We wish all the best for the festive period and we look forward to seeing you at the club soon. Maybe trying bowls could be your new year's resolution!

News from the Dunlop and District Community Company

The hall is buzzing with events over the next month. The panto is in full swing at the end of November and there is a full programme of events and activities in the hall including the Cinema and plenty of options for dance, drama and sport.

The café is open Thursdays and Fridays (10.30am-2pm) and if you're in the hall at any other time why not try a cup of coffee or hot chocolate by buying a cup from the self service machine in the café area.

The main event in December will be the **Christmas Fayre on the 13th December** between 1-4pm. Entertainment, stalls and refreshments. Please come along and support your village hall.

We have an exciting programme of events for 2026 which begins with the return of **Scottish Opera to the village hall on Saturday 14th of February**. Scottish Opera is only playing at selected venues outside the main urban centres and so we are delighted that Dunlop will

again feature in their programme. More details on purchasing tickets will become available in the next few weeks.

If you are **planning a special event, such as a birthday or anniversary do consider hiring the main hall** or one of the smaller rooms which have good availability most weekends as well as during the week.

Please look at our website for more details at dunlopvillagehall.org.uk

St John's Coffee Morning

A wonderful £3044 was raised at the St John Coffee Morning on Saturday. This will help communities provide public access defibrillators throughout Ayrshire. Sincere thanks to all who so generously gave donations and to those who came along to support.

Dunlop Diary Submissions

Do you have something to feature in the next edition of the Dunlop Diary?

The deadline for submissions to the February Diary is Monday 19th January. Send them to dunlopdialry@gmail.com